

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

SIG-02 PM-04 PA-02 INR-07 INRE-00 /067 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - NOVEMBER 30 AND
DECEMBER 1

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
NOVEMBER 30, 1976:

Q. THE VISA OF SABRI JIRYIS, OF THE PLO DELEGATION, DID
IT EXPIRE TODAY?

A. NOVEMBER 30 WAS THE EXPIRATION DATE. YES.

Q. WOULD YOU CONFIRM THAT HE IS LEAVING?

A. I REALLY CANNOT CONFIRM BECAUSE NOVEMBER 30TH IS NOT
OVER, AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF CHECKING EVERY AIRPORT. SO I
CANNOT CONFIRM THAT AT THIS TIME.

Q. BUT HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO STAY BEYOND TODAY?

A. HIS STATUS WOULD BE ILLEGAL AFTER NOVEMBER 30TH.

Q. DO YOU KNOW OF ANY -- DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE PLANS
S TO, NEVERTHELESS, OPEN THE PLO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON
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WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS BY AN AMERICAN

A. I AM NOT INFORMED OF SUCH A PLAN, NO.

2. FOR YOU INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE THE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
DECEMBER 1, 1976:

Q. I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU A QUESTION ABOUT LEBANON --

A. YES.

Q. AND WHETHER YOU COULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING THAN YOU HAVE BEEN OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, ON THE AMERICAN ROLE REGARDING A PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR SOUTHERN LEBANON.

A. I CANNOT ADD MUCH TO WHAT I HAVE SAID IN PREVIOUS DAYS, MARVIN. YOU ARE FAMILIAR, I THINK, WITH WHAT WE SAID THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY -- WE REMAIN IN CONTACT, EMPHASIS IS ON HELPING PRESIDENT SARKIS ESTABLISH HIS AUTHORITY THROUGHOUT LEBANON. I WOULD MAKE JUST ONE COMMENT WITH REGARD TO A PRESS REPORT ALLEGING THAT A STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE -- WITH REFERENCE TO MR. RABIN'S RECENT REMARKS ON A "HELSINKI-LIKE" CONFERENCE -- IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE SAID THE IDEA WAS NOT BEING TAKEN AS A SERIOUS PROPOSAL. I WOULD NOT AGREE WITH THAT NOTION, AND SIMPLY REPEAT WHAT WE SAID SEVERAL DAYS AGO WITH REGARD TO THIS AND OTHER LIKE REMARKS OVER RECENT WEEKS BY VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS IN A MIDDLE EAST PREAC PROCESS ABOUT THE NEED TO MOVE TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WHILE WE FEEL IT PREMATURE TO COMMENT ON ANY PARTICULAR PROPOSAL, WE CERTAINLY AGREE THAT SUCH MOVES WOULD BE DESIRABLE. SO IN SUM, I WOULD NOT AGREE WITH THIS PRESS REPORT SAYING THAT WE DON'T TAKE MR. RABIN'S WORDS SERIOUSLY.

Q. YOU TAKE MR. RABIN'S WORDS SERIOUSLY?

A. YES.

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Q. DO YOU -- YOU REFER TO IT AS A "HELSINKI-STYLE" CONFERENCE --

A. NO, THE REFERENCE THERE IS TO THE PRESS REPORT AND TO THE WAY I BELIEVE --

Q. THE NEW YORK TIMES HEADLINE.

A. -- THE WAY I BELIEVE IT WAS DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT-AGE ON MR. RABIN'S STATEMENT, YES.

Q. WELL THAT'S --

A. BUT THAT IS NOT OUR TERM. I AM MERELY QUOTING THE

PRESS REPORT.

Q. WELL, LET'S SEE HOW MUCH YOU ARE PREPARED TO SAY:

Q. WAS MR. RABIN CALLING FOR A HELSINKI-TYPE CONFERENCE?

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS. THE NEW YORK TIMES HAD ONE, AND THE WASHINGTON POST HAD ANOTHER. AND SOME THINK IT'S HELSINKI, AND A LEAD STORY -- SOME THINK IT'S A BIT OF A -- YOU KNOW.

A. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO INTERPRET HIS WORDS. I AM MAKING A VERY GENERAL STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO RECENT PROPOSALS, STATEMENTS BY PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- OF WHICH MR. RABIN'S RECENT STATEMENT WAS ONE. SINCE THIS PRESS REPORT ADDRESSED THIS PARTICULAR STATEMENT BY MR. RABIN, I AM SIMPLY SAYING THAT WE WOULDN'T AGREE WITH THE DESCRIPTION "NOT BEING TAKEN AS A SERIOUS PROPOSAL." THAT'S ALL.

Q. SO IT'S A SERIOUS PROPOSAL?

A. WE WOULD NOT AGREE WITH THE PRESS REPORT DESCRIBING IT AS NOT BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

Q. LET'S FORGET THE PRESS REPORT. HAS MR. RABIN MADE A UNCLASSIFIED

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SERIOUS PROPOSAL? AND IF SO, WHAT IS IT?

A. I CANNOT GET INTO DESCRIBING OR CHARACTERIZING HIS PROPOSAL. I WILL JUST SAY THAT IT IS NOT BEING TAKEN AS A NONSERIOUS PROPOSAL.

Q. WILL YOU TELL US WHAT IT IS, AND -- WHAT IS IT?

A. I CANNOT GO BEYOND THAT.

ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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